

Preliminary Amendment
PCT/FR/00/02597

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard C. Turner
Registration No. 29,710

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

Date: March 15, 2002

Preliminary Amendment
PCT/FR/00/02597

APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 15 and 16 are canceled.

The claims are amended as follows:

3. The process as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], characterized in that said hot rolling operation is carried out in a single step with a reduction ratio of at least 20%.

5. The process as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], characterized in that said hot rolling operation is carried out in two steps, in that the first of these steps is carried out with a reduction ratio of 20 to 70%, in that, after this first step, the strip is reheated so as to make said steel pass from the ferritic range into the austenitic range, and in that the second rolling step is then carried out with a reduction ratio of 10 to 30%, at the end of which second step said steel is in the austenitic range.

8. The process as claimed in [claims 1 to 7] claim 1, characterized in that, after the strip has been cast, it is made to pass through a region in which it is subjected to a nonoxidizing environment.

9. The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 8] claim 1, characterized in that the strip is subjected to a descaling operation before and/or during the hot rolling.

10. The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 9] claim 1, characterized in that said forced cooling is carried out at a rate of 100 to 300°C/s.

Preliminary Amendment
PCT/FR/00/02597

11. The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 10] claim 1, characterized in that said forced cooling starts when the strip is in the ferritic range of said steel.

12. The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 11] claim 1, characterized in that the strip is coiled at a temperature below 750°C between the forced cooling operation and the cold rolling operation.

13. The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 12] claim 1, characterized in that the reduction ratio of the cold rolling is at least 85%.

14. The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 13] claim 1, characterized in that said cold rolling is carried out in a single step.